Labour Force

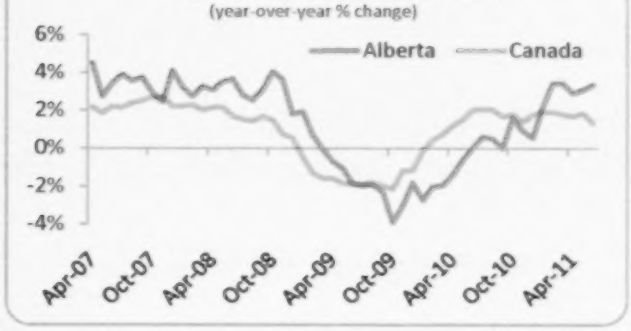
Job market strengthens...

Alberta's labour market showed tremendous strength with an increase of 22,000 jobs in June. Gains were recorded in both full-time (13,200) and part-time (8,700) employment. Retail and wholesale trade led the growth story (12,200) while construction recorded losses of 12,000 jobs. The unemployment rate edged up to 5.6% due to an increase of 27,600 people to the labour force. Alberta has regained all the jobs lost in the recession and more. Employment fell by 73,600 positions from October 2008 to July 2009 and since then has gained 76,800 jobs.

Total employment in Canada grew by 28,400 positions in June. Ontario had the strongest growth gaining 40,300 new jobs while Quebec faltered, losing 15,500 positions. Canada's unemployment rate remained steady at 7.4%.

Figure 1: Employment Growth

(year-over-year % change)



IPPI and RMPI

Industrial product and raw material prices decline...

Canada's industrial product price index (IPPI) edged down 0.2% in May. Miscellaneous manufacturing fell by 5.9% while wood product manufacturing fell by 1.7%. On a year-over-year basis, the IPPI advanced 4.5% with strong growth in petroleum and coal product manufacturing (30.8%) and petroleum refineries (32.4%).

The raw materials price index fell (RMPI) by 5.2% in May due to an 8.4% fall in the price of mineral fuels. The RMPI has advanced 25.4% year-over-year as mineral fuels increased by 37% and vegetable products rose 40.1%.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/C$)	
July 8, 2011	103.87
June 30, 2011	103.70
2011-12 YTD	103.38
WTI Oil US$/bbl	
July 8, 2011	$96.20
June 30, 2011	$95.42
2011-12 YTD	$101.93
Nymex Natural Gas US$/MMBtu*	
Near-month Contract	
July 8, 2011	$4.21
June 30, 2011	$4.37

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

New House Price Index

Slow growth in Alberta house prices...

The Alberta new house price index (NHPI) increased 0.3% in May. Year-over-year performance was parallel, growing by 0.3% from May 2010. Regionally, new house prices in Calgary did not change year-over-year, while new houses prices in Edmonton were 0.7% higher.

Building Permits

Value of building permits continues to climb...

The total value of building permits in Alberta grew by 22.7% in May (seasonally adjusted) to $1.1 billion. The value of residential building permits decreased by 8.2% which was more than offset by a 94.7% increase in non-residential building permit values.

US Employment

Weak job growth continues...

US employment stunned the market again in June, as employment increased by only 18,000 jobs, well below consensus expectations of 105,000. Private sector payrolls increased by 57,000, but were met by declines in public sector employment.

European Finance

ECB raises rates...

On July 7th, the European Central Bank increased the interest rate on main refinancing operations by 25 basis points to 1.5% due to inflationary concerns.

Current Economic Indicators

Population	2009	2010	2011YTD*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Population [1] (000's) (level)	3,671	3,721	3,758	3,743	--	--	3,758	--	--
% change	2.2	1.4	1.5	1.4	--	--	1.5	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton [1] (level)	13,184	-2,183	8,940	2,510	--	--	5,275	--	--
Net International Migration [1] (level)	16,835	21,533	15,143	4,633	--	--	4,149	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents [1] (level)	19,162	-77	-6,872	-6,725	--	--	-504	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's)	2,025	2,017	2,068	2,054	2,068	2,064	2,060	2,069	2,091
% change NEW!	-1.3	-0.4	3.0	2.2	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.8	3.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.6	6.5	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.4	5.6
Participation Rate (%)	74.3	72.9	73.2	73.2	73.4	73.2	73.2	72.9	73.7
Average Weekly Earnings ($)	950.13	993.13	1033.4	1026.03	1030.49	1036.11	1045.97	--	--
% change	2.9	4.5	5.7	7.0	5.9	5.8	4.7	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	-0.1	1.0	2.7	1.0	1.2	2.0	3.0	2.8	--
Excluding food and energy	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.8	--
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index [2]	-9.8	-0.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	-10.6	-3.9	18.6	18.0	20.7	19.1	16.7	--	--
Crops	-18.9	-14.5	16.3	13.2	15.5	17.6	18.9	--	--
Livestock	-2.8	5.7	20.5	21.7	24.8	19.6	16.0	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	20.0	27.1	21.6	19.1	22.4	20.8	21.4	24.3	--
% change	-31.6	33.5	-26.4	-22.4	-21.7	-39.7	-27.2	-17.9	--
New Housing Price Index	-9.0	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.3	--
Edmonton NEW!	-11.2	-0.8	0.7	0.3	1.1	1.2	0.4	0.7	--
Calgary	-6.7	1.7	0.6	0.8	0.4	-0.1	-0.2	0	--
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ 000's)	340.5	350.9	353.9	352.8	355.9	348.8	360.1	351.8	--
% change	-3.1	3.1	0.2	2.4	2.5	-1.9	0.6	-2.4	--
Edmonton	319.1	326.5	323.0	323.1	321.8	320.2	326.4	323.3	--
% change	-3.5	2.3	-2.5	0.5	-1.2	-4.6	-4.2	-2.8	--
Calgary	384.3	397.4	401.4	401.7	403.8	393.4	404.4	403.7	--
% change	-4.2	3.4	1.3	4.3	2.3	-0.8	2.2	-1.3	--
Retail Sales	-8.3	6.0	5.0	4.0	4.9	3.8	7.4	--	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-21.7	9.3	6.7	8.9	-0.2	10.3	8.3	--	--
Consumer Bankruptcies	9,986	8,150	2,534	578	636	680	640	--	--
% change	64.6	-18.4	-10.8	-15.5	-0.2	-12.4	-14.0	--	--
Business Sector									
Rigs Drilling	128	207	252	372	418	366	123	84	150
% change	-45.6	61.3	40.0	29.6	23.3	66.6	98.4	50.0	26.9
Goods Exports (customs based)	-36.3	11.7	10.8	10.2	6.0	15.9	--	--	--
Energy	-40.1	16.2	11.7	11.9	5.3	18.0	--	--	--
Agriculture	-10.2	-14.4	2.8	6.9	6.3	-3.4	--	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	-8.0	-3.9	9.3	--	--	16.7	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	-23.7	11.0	16.1	15.8	14.4	18.2	20.9	--	--
Wholesale Trade	-15.9	10.8	12.2	16.4	11.4	13.0	8.1	--	--
Building Permits	-14.2	2.1	5.9	-21.7	50.2	-13.3	-22.3	12.8	--
Residential NEW!	-11.8	24.7	-21.6	-24.0	-34.0	-5.2	0.2	-9.0	--
Non-residential	-16.3	-19.0	56.1	-16.8	224.7	-25.0	-49.0	52.8	--
Business Bankruptcies	405	378	95	30	22	26	17	--	--
% change	-9.4	-6.7	-33.1	11.1	-26.7	-45.8	-54.1	--	--

Government of Alberta ■
Finance and Enterprise

Alberta ■

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

1 Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30).

2 Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).

Current Economic Indicators by Province